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Jefferson Medical College

ALUMNI BULLETIN

Vol. 1

FEBRUARY, 1927

No. 7

Issued by the Executive Committee of the Alumni Association through the Committee on Publicity. Address all communications to the Editor, Dr. Edward Weiss, 1923 Spruce Street, Philadelphia.

John Chalmers Da Costa—A Tribute

By H. R. M. LANDIS, M.D.*



YOUR Chairman will bear me witness that I shrank from what I considered both a duty and a pleasure, because of my unfitness. To speak of one who is known to every man here present is no easy task. Furthermore, it is not rendered easier by reason of the fact that the victim may hear of what I say. May I say to him that any faults that occur are of the head, and not the heart?

In the first place, you all know what an interesting talk he could give if he were someone else talking about himself. How he would weave about the central figure points of contemporary interest, giving you not only a picture of the man himself, but also giving an adequate background to the picture. Unfortunately, I lack the gift to do that as it should be done, and it is unfortunate, for here is a subject that offers a great opportunity, for one who is not hampered by the necessity of elaborating on one single characteristic. His is a character with so many facets that it is not easy to do justice to all of them. Da Costa is a personage; make no mistake about that. Surgeon, teacher, amateur fireman, but with the technical knowledge of the professional, raconteur, a talker, a true "lord of words." All of these things he is, as you well know. And besides these attributes, we have the man himself, a sturdy, virile character, a born rebel to the superficial conventions, careless of the material rewards of life, a steadfast friend with a warm, affectionate heart.

As to his professional attainments, I shall be brief. They are too well known to all of you. On such an occasion as this, however, it is befitting that tribute be paid to his pre-eminence as a teacher. In these days, when the art of teaching is on none too high a level, it is a satisfaction to be able to point to a master of that art. From his earliest professional days up to the present, and in the face of a distressing illness, he has continued to fascinate his listeners. To my mind, his clinics have been models of what such performances should be for the undergraduate student. He has had no desire to parade his knowledge of the bizarre and the unusual. The recognition and care of the everyday surgical ailments were what he has preferred to teach, and if the secret of teaching is to arouse and hold the interest of one's audience, then he is a great teacher. To do this, for example, with so uninviting a subject as leg ulcers is not easy—and yet that is what Da Costa can do. So much, and far too little, I admit, for the professional side.

When we turn from the professional side, I fancy all of you have in mind a different picture. Some of you, no doubt, call to mind his pet hobby—fires and firemen. For years he has been an unofficial part of the Fire Department. There was a time when I frequented fires when I could, and whenever I had the good fortune to get close enough, there he was with the inevitable cigar, watching with a trained eye every move in the drama. There was also a time when I had much to do with firemen, and I early learned of his fiercely maternal care of these men. Woe betide

* Presented at the fortieth annual banquet of the Association of Ex-Residents of the Philadelphia General Hospital, December 7, 1926.

the man who failed to give his best for them!

Again, there are some who know of his love of books and his library. And what a cosmopolitan crowd it is! Just like his human friends; some of high estate; some, and often the most prized, belonging to the lowly; some handsomely and appropriately dressed, as befits their state; others with their clothes out at the elbows, and you have to get inside of them to find their true worth. Throughout his life his books have played an intimate part. All of them read with understanding, and most of them repeatedly reread. They have been obtained in times of early adversity and later affluence. Many of them can truly testify that they were the final choice when that choice lay between some necessity and their acquisition. It is the most personal library I know. At one time he becomes interested in famous crimes. Quickly a small library on that subject takes its place. At another time the Wesleys and the religious movement they fostered engages his interest, and he must acquire all that relates to them. And so it goes—each book or group of books having a definite reason for its acquisition.

Nearly every man here is familiar with his after-dinner speeches. There was a time when a Blockley dinner was incomplete without his being on the list of speakers. Most of us can recall his humorous descriptions of quaint characters he had known in his hospital, and his fiercely satirical characterizations of the politics which prevailed in the management of the place in his day as an interne.

He is equally facile in the writing of historical essays. One that, I think, will find a permanent place in medical literature is the account of "Medical Paris in the Reign of Louis Philippe." One is struck with the enormous range of reading this essay represents. Not only are we given a picture of the medical giants of that time, but we stroll about Paris with them; go into famous restaurants of the time; sit at tables with or near others famous in art, literature or pol-

itics. No one who had not read widely and discriminately of that period could have produced such a paper, and the material for this was dragged out of the recesses of his mind years after most of it had been acquired.

It is as a talker that I think I know Da Costa best, and when I refer to him as a talker, I mean talking as an artistic accomplishment. The kind of talking that by turn deals with humor, pathos or satire; is always interesting and usually instructive. Talking of the kind that makes others in the company willing to listen, not forced to listen, as has been said of Macauley. I have always thought that Da Costa was born two centuries too late. Born in London at any time during the period the Coffee Houses flourished, he would have been in his element. These forerunners of the modern social club each had its own select little coterie. They represented all kinds and conditions of people. Here he would have had a wide choice, and in any of them I am quite certain he would have been welcomed. Here he could have by turn listened and talked to the famous talkers of the time. I wonder if Dr. Johnson would have monopolized the conversation as was his wont? I suspect that even the old Doctor would have been content to listen to our friend at times.

Along conventional lines Da Costa must be classed as unsociable. Formal dinners, formal social gatherings of any sort have always bored him. On the other hand, no man has ever been more gregarious or loves more to be with the few he knows well. In the latter environment he blossoms forth, now with a story; now with a fierce diatribe against politicians or the Volstead Act (his pet aversions); more often with an account or criticism of something he has recently read, but, and I want to make this quite clear, willing to listen to anyone who has something to say.

The one role that he has performed badly is that of a poseur. Ever since I have known him, he has attempted to give the impression that he has no sentimental side. His many friends know how laugh-

ably poor this pose is, and it is still more so in his relations with his social inferiors. Witness his watchful care of John Johnson, a unique character who worked for many years in the Out-Patient Surgical Department of the Jefferson Hospital; his loyal adherence to an old cab driver whom he persisted in employing long after cabs had become almost an anachronism. And finally, his devotion to Willie, whose last name I forget, if I ever knew it. For seventeen years Willie was a sort of general factotum in the Da Costa household. I do not believe I exaggerate when I say that Willie was peremptorily and fiercely discharged at least once a day, usually between the hours of 8:00 and 9:00 A.M., and perhaps again late in the day. Willie knew, and the "boss" knew that this was just part of the daily routine. Their devotion to each

other was entirely secure against such trivialities, and the night that Willie died in the Jefferson Hospital his "boss" of seventeen years made no secret of his grief. The man who is kindly and considerate of his less fortunate brothers can be trusted to be equally fair and true to his equals.

This, my fellow ex-residents of Blockley is, I fully know, but a feeble attempt to pay a tribute to one who has played a not inconsiderable part in the life of this community. He has played his part valiantly when in the fullness of health, but never has he risen to greater heights than during these past few years when in the face of a crippling illness he has kept his head up and carried on. That he may carry on for many years to come is our earnest hope.

Dinner in Honor of Emeritus Professor Dercum's Birthday

ON Saturday, December 11, 1926, at the Penn Athletic Club, the professional friends of Emeritus Professor F. X. Dercum tendered him a dinner in honor of his seventieth birthday. During the evening he was presented with a beautifully bound volume, containing an

account of Professor Dercum's life, written by Professor J. Chalmers Da Costa. The book was signed by all present. Addresses were made by Professors Keen, Strecker, Mills, Lloyd and finally an appreciation by Professor Dercum. The Toastmaster was Professor Charles W. Burr.

The Annual Smoker

THE annual smoker of the Alumni Association of Jefferson Medical College will be held on Thursday evening, February 17, 1927 at the Penn Athletic Club. Arrangements have been completed to make this Smoker the biggest and best get-together night in the history of the Alumni Association. Many enjoyable features will be a part of the program, and entertainment of the highest quality will be presented during the

evening. It is the aim of the committee to have a program that will live long in the minds of those present as the most enjoyable Smoker that they have ever attended. Let every Alumnus urge his fellows to come so that we shall have a record attendance. Don't forget the night, February 17, 1927 at eight o'clock at the Penn Athletic Club, 18th and Rittenhouse Square. Entrance to the Ballroom is on Locust Street.



ALBA BOARDMAN JOHNSON

Alba Boardman Johnson, President of the Board of Trustees

MR. Johnson became president of the Board of Trustees of the Jefferson Medical College Hospital in 1926 following the death of William Potter. He had previously served as a member of the Board of Trustees since 1904. Born in 1858, he graduated from Central High School in 1876 and entered the Baldwin Locomotive Works the following year. In 1911 he became President of Baldwins and resigned in May of 1919. Among Mr. Johnson's numerous connections with financial, political and scientific organizations, were his Directorship of the Federal

Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, Director of the Philadelphia Art Alliance, Vice-President of the Y. M. C. A. of Philadelphia, President of the Pennsylvania State Chamber of Commerce, Member of the American Philosophical Society, member of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, membership in the Union League, the University and Manufacturers' Clubs. Mr. Johnson was awarded the honorary degree, Doctor of Laws, by Ursinus College in 1909. His home is in Rosemont, Pennsylvania.



PROFESSOR WILLIAM M. SWEET

Death of Professor William M. Sweet

PROFESSOR William Sweet was born in Philadelphia, in 1860, graduated from Central High School in 1878, from Jefferson Medical College in 1886 and afterward served as Resident Physician at Jefferson Hospital. Following his Residentsip at Jefferson, he visited the leading medical centers of Europe and on his return became an assistant in the Eye Department at Jefferson Hospital.

In 1897 he discovered an accurate method for the localization of foreign bodies in the eye, and later invented an electric magnet for the extraction of such

metallic bodies. He was joint author with Professor Hansell, of a text book on diseases of the eye, published in 1903. He was elected Associate Professor of Ophthalmology at Jefferson in 1906, Clinical Professor in 1913 and succeeded Professor Hansell to the full Professorship in 1925. In addition to his connection with Jefferson, he was consulting surgeon to the Wills Hospital for diseases of the eye.

Professor Sweet succumbed to lobar pneumonia on December 24, 1926 following an illness of only one week.

Corinna Borden Keen Research Fellowship

DR. Aaron Capper, Jefferson, '24, who recently completed his internship at the Jefferson Hospital, has been designated the "Corinna Borden Keen Research Fellow of the Jefferson

Medical College." He is pursuing his studies at the Von Pirquet Clinic in Vienna, devoting his time to Pediatrics. On his return the results of his work will be embodied in a series of papers.



BIRTHDAY FELICITATIONS TO EMERITUS PROFESSOR W. W. KEEN ON HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY
JANUARY 19, 1927 FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Annual Banquet of the Alumni Association

THE annual banquet of the Jefferson Alumni Association was held in the Ballroom of the Penn Athletic Club on Thursday, June 3, 1926. Although the attendance was considerably less than the year before—the Centennial Year—we were nevertheless pleased with the loyalty and enthusiasm demonstrated by the six hundred members of the Alumni Association who were present.

Dr. Fielding O. Lewis, the President of the Alumni Association, presided at the

Banquet and addresses were delivered by the newly elected President of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Alba B. Johnson, and by various members of the faculty and Alumni from various sections of the country. The beautiful ballroom of the Penn Athletic Club lent itself admirably to the purposes of the Association and it is with satisfaction that we announce the same meeting place for the Annual Smoker to be held on Thursday Evening, February 17, 1927.

Tenth Reunion Class of 1917

THE officers of the Class of 1917, H. W. Jones, E. Weiss, A. Deibert and A. Walkling have formulated plans of unusual interest to celebrate the 10th reunion of this class. A detailed announcement is soon to be in the hands of each member.

Come Out to the
Best Smoker
ever arranged
Thursday Evening, February 17,
1927
Penn Athletic Club

Faculty Appointment

DR. Edward L. Bauer, a graduate of Jefferson Medical College, class of 1914, has been elected to the Professorship of Pediatrics, to succeed Professor Edwin E. Graham, resigned. Dr. Bauer was formerly connected with the Pediatric Department of the Philadelphia General Hospital and the Childrens Hospital of the Mary Drexel Home. At present he is Consulting Pediatricist to the

Germantown Dispensary and Hospital, Pediatricist to the Memorial Hospital and to the Philadelphia Hospital for Contagious Diseases. His writings have dealt particularly with Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria and for a number of years he had charge of the Diphtheria Prevention Work for the Philadelphia Department of Public Health.

New Society Formed

AN event of unusual importance is the establishment of "The Jefferson Society for Clinical Investigation." The purpose of this new society, formed in the Fall of 1926 is to encourage research work, to stimulate the writing and discussion of papers and to develop a research fund. The membership is open to those of the Junior Staff actually engaged in some form of clinical investigation. The officers for the ensuing year are H. W. Jones, President; Thad Mont-

gomery, Vice-President; Burgess Gordon, Secretary; J. T. Farrell Jr., Treasurer. The first meeting, held Thursday, December 16th, was addressed by Prof. Russell Cecil of Cornell University. In the presentation of his subject, "Pneumococcus Pneumonia" he brought out many unusual statistical points and discussed the results of a new type II serum treatment. Professors Hare and McCrae presented interesting discussions.

Unveiling of Tablet to Professor Edward P. Davis

BY THE SCHOOL OF NURSES

PHILADELPHIA GENERAL HOSPITAL

ON Monday, November 1, 1926, physicians and nurses of the Philadelphia General Hospital gathered in the Nurses' Assembly Room to take part in the presentation to the institution, of a permanent testimonial to Dr. Edward Parker Davis for his inestimable services to the School for Nurses, to which he was advisor from 1886 until his resignation

from the staff in 1924.

Dr. Joseph C. Doane presided. The tribute was presented on behalf of the Alumni by Miss Roberta M. West, a graduate of the first class of the School, and it was accepted by Dr. Wilmer Krusen, Director of Public Health. The tablet was unveiled by Miss Lillian Clayton, Directress of Nurses.

The Prune Street Theatre—The First Home of the Jefferson Medical College

Illustrated on back cover

IN a lower section of Locust Street, a step eastward from Washington Square, this aged building, now of the past, was notable. Originally a warehouse, it was converted into a playhouse in 1820, as the Winter Tivoli Theatre. Edwin Forrest was, for a time, its manager. Three years later it was reopened as the City Theatre. Incident to the production at this time of John Howard Payne's melodrama, "Clare, the Maid of Milan," on October 29, 1823, Mrs. H. A. Williams, wife of the man-

ager, sang "Home, Sweet Home," this being the first time it was heard in America. The Song, which has touched the hearts of millions of wanderers, was written by Payne, an American, then residing in Egypt. The music was composed by Sir Henry Bishop.

In 1825 the Jefferson Medical College occupied the building, removing therefrom in 1829. Through the greater part of a century the old structure was utilized for manufacturing purposes.

An unusual entertainment will be presented at the Mid-Winter Smoker, Thursday, February 17, 1927, at the Penn Athletic Club.

Come out and bring a fellow Alumnus.

Attention—Class of 1917

Prepare for the Tenth Reunion this coming spring. Make a reservation on your calendar for the Annual Dinner.

How One Alumnus Feels About the College and the Alumni Fund

GLENSHAW, PENNSYLVANIA,

December 28, 1926.

DR. ROSS V. PATTERSON, *Dean*,
Jefferson Medical College,
Philadelphia.

MY DEAR DOCTOR PATTERSON:

Enclosed please find check for One Hundred Dollars to be credited to the Alumni Fund of the Greatest Medical School on the Planet, in memory of her mighty men of the past and present, God's noblemen, every man.

Long live old Jefferson and her fame!

Compliments of the season to the members of the present Faculty, mostly new to me. Health and prosperity to all who may remember.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) W. W. STURGIS, '87.

The Alumni Fund of the Jefferson Medical College

By DR. ROSS V. PATTERSON, CHAIRMAN

THE Alumni Fund has now been in existence during a period of five years, having been instituted January 1, 1922, for the purpose of affording Jefferson graduates an opportunity to contribute to the financial support of the educational activities of the College, and to endeavor, through them, to secure the support of others.

Herewith, in tabular form, is presented a report of the Fund as of December 31, 1926, showing (a) the number of those contributing, and the total amount received in various years, with interest accretions added, which, altogether, have brought the Fund up to a cash value of \$88,309.35; (b) the contributions made by Alumni, classified according to the year of graduation, and arranged in the order of class standing as determined by percentage of contributors.

Briefly stated, the tabulations show that contributions have been made by 1147 Alumni, and 47 individuals and organizations not to be classed as graduates. These contributors reside in 32 states, 2 territorial possessions, and 4 foreign countries. They represent 60 classes of graduated.

The total of all contributions received up to and including December 31, 1926, amounted to \$77,800.89, to which is added the interest accumulation of \$10,508.46, bringing the amount of the Fund up to \$88,309.35, to which, of course, must be added the cash value of two life insurance policies, five Building and Loan shares, and a United States Adjusted Service Certificate.

There have been no deductions of any kind from the contributions received, since all expenses incurred in the Fund organization have been paid from sources independent of the Fund itself. In other words, all sums which have been received, together with all interest accumulations, have been credited to the Fund itself. All money received is invested by the Finance Committee of the Board of Trus-

tees in interest-bearing securities, the interest from which is added to the Fund itself, so that there is a constant increase from investments as well as from the annual contributions.

Many of the contributors to the Fund have pledged themselves to an annual contribution, which pledges will yield approximately \$10,000 per year. Approximately 20 per cent of the graduates of the Jefferson Medical College are supporting the Alumni Fund. If the remaining 80 per cent who have not responded to the appeal had supported the Fund proportionately, the Fund would amount to five times its present size, and would be receiving \$50,000 a year from contributions alone.

The second tabulation is of interest in showing the number of contributors in each graduating class—an indication of the loyalty and generosity of these different groups of graduates. It will be noted that the Class of 1904 stands in the place of honor in that it has both the greatest number of contributors and the highest percentage of members contributing. The amount contributed is second only to that of one other class, one member of which by a single large gift, placed his class in the lead as regards amount contributed. Other classes follow in the order of percentage of their members contributing.

There is no doubt that a larger number of contributors could be secured in nearly all of the classes if a class organization for that purpose could be effected. The activities of the Alumni Association preceding the Centennial Celebration resulted in securing a large number of additional contributors to the Fund. It should be pointed out that the table shows only contributors, i.e., those who have actually paid in a sum of money, after making a pledge to do so.

The Class of 1926, with 144 members, shows only one contributor, but it should

be stated that 96 members of this Class, prior to graduation, signed a series of notes, pledging themselves to make contributions a certain number of years after graduation. When the members of this Class have entered upon the practice of medicine and are able to redeem the pledges already made, this Class will show a very high percentage of members contributing to the Fund, and may easily go from last place to very nearly the top of the list. In addition to the foregoing pledges of the Class of 1926 there are 64 additional pledges made by others who have not yet become contributors.

After an existence of five years, an experience has been gained which should enable the Fund to be given some direct object for attainment. It has been well realized by those directing it, that the lack of a definite purpose has prevented its having the appeal to the majority of graduates such as would be made by some

worthy object which would enlist their enthusiasm and support. In the plans for the development of the Institution at present being considered by the Board of Trustees will be found many opportunities for the Alumni to assume some definite part in the program, which will make a very definite appeal to their loyalty and pride in "Old Jeff", and perhaps result in some great monument to their loyalty and generosity. Those who have already contributed form a substantial nucleus around which the work may be extended to include a much larger body of the Alumni.

Occasion is taken to express appreciation for the support which has been given to the Fund by so many graduates, and to express the hope that it may continue to grow, and that the number of those participating in this endeavor may continue to increase.

General Financial Statement, December 31, 1926

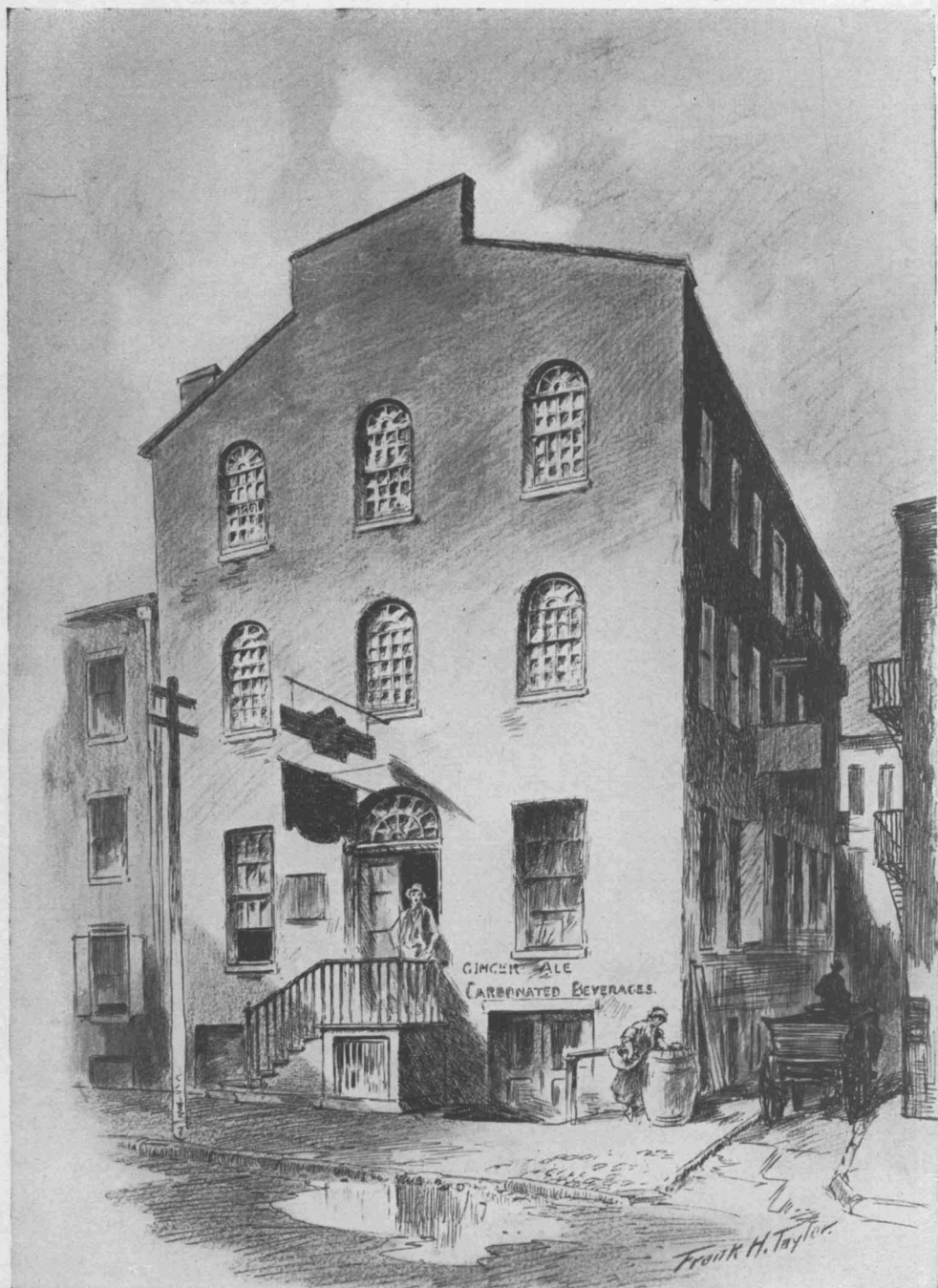
	Alumni Contributors	Yearly Contributions Pledged	Amount Received
1922.....	353.....	\$4,167.83.....	\$26,432.83 ¹
1923.....	505.....	5,524.48.....	8,592.91
1924.....	629.....	6,717.98.....	7,492.64
1925.....	1041.....	11,818.98.....	12,606.90
1926.....	1147.....	12,756.98.....	9,383.58
Total contributed by 1,147 Alumni.....			\$64,508.86
Received from 47 non-graduates and organizations.....			13,292.03
Interest and accretions to December 31, 1926.....			10,508.46
Total amount of fund, December 31, 1926.....			\$88,309.35 ²

¹ This sum includes Doctor Strittmatter's contribution of \$5,000 and \$19,694.33 contributed by Alumni connected with the College and Hospital; only \$1,738.50 of this total was contributed by 205 other Alumni during 1922.

² Does not include two life insurance policies of \$1,000 each; Building and Loan shares of a maturity value of \$1,000; and a U. S. Adjusted Service Certificate for \$336, payable in 1946.

Statement of Class Standing, December 31, 1926

Rank	Class	Living Graduates	Contributors	Percentage	Amount
1.	1904.	139.	67.	48.20.	\$4,579.15
2.	1876.	31.	14.	45.16.	719.00
3.	1918.	95.	39.	41.05.	1,307.50
4.	1920.	162.	62.	38.27.	1,167.00
5.	1912.	171.	61.	35.67.	2,199.39
6.	1914.	137.	48.	35.04.	1,369.00
7.	1906.	171.	59.	34.50.	3,508.00
8.	1921.	107.	35.	32.71.	583.00
9.	1916.	151.	49.	32.45.	1,873.00
10.	1913.	111.	34.	30.63.	1,275.00
11.	1922.	85.	26.	30.59.	399.25
12.	1903.	134.	39.	29.10.	2,344.00
13.	1915.	131.	38.	29.	1,395.00
14.	1869.	14.	4.	28.57.	375.00
15.	1917.	131.	35.	26.72.	1,101.00
16.	1911.	103.	26.	25.24.	1,079.00
17.	1862.	4.	1.	25.	1,100.00
18.	1919.	135.	33.	24.44.	548.00
19.	1909.	123.	29.	23.59.	673.00
20.	1872.	13.	3.	23.08.	80.00
21.	1908.	156.	35.	22.44.	2,495.00
22.	1874.	32.	7.	21.88.	3,710.00
23.	1886.	114.	24.	21.05.	1,435.00
24.	1902.	135.	28.	20.74.	2,083.00
25.	1879.	55.	11.	20.	830.67
26.	1907.	111.	20.	18.02.	1,056.00
27.	1901.	108.	19.	17.60.	3,834.00
28.	1895.	99.	17.	17.17.	714.00
29.	1910.	135.	23.	17.16.	1,018.00
30.	1896.	157.	24.	15.92.	1,646.00
31.	1897.	101.	16.	15.84.	783.33
32.	1892.	73.	11.	15.07.	589.00
33.	1900.	85.	12.	14.12.	295.00
34.	1905.	150.	21.	14.00.	1,360.57
35.	1887.	80.	11.	13.75.	621.00
36.	1884.	81.	11.	13.58.	1,305.00
37.	1870.	15.	2.	13.33.	141.00
38.	1881.	63.	8.	12.70.	5,207.00
39.	1867.	8.	1.	12.50.	10.00
40.	1899.	66.	8.	12.12.	405.00
41.	1894.	108.	13.	12.04.	434.00
42.	1891.	84.	10.	11.90.	1,299.00
43.	1865.	9.	1.	11.11.	2.00
44.	1890.	101.	11.	10.89.	501.00
45.	1880.	61.	6.	9.84.	71.00
46.	1888.	91.	8.	8.79.	131.00
47.	1875.	25.	2.	8.	25.00
48.	1883.	91.	7.	7.69.	1,208.00
49.	1882.	92.	7.	7.61.	1,740.00
50.	1885.	67.	5.	7.46.	100.00
51.	1868.	15.	1.	6.67.	75.00
52.	1893.	107.	7.	6.54.	1,070.00
53.	1889.	108.	7.	6.48.	143.00
54.	1898.	32.	2.	6.25.	41.00
55.	1923.	147.	8.	5.46.	84.00
56.	1878.	59.	3.	5.08.	117.00
57.	1877.	46.	2.	4.35.	210.00
58.	1925.	141.	5.	3.55.	27.00
59.	1924.	144.	3.	2.05.	11.00
60.	1926.	144.	1.	.69.	10.00



THE PRUNE STREET THEATRE, THE FIRST HOME OF THE JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE, 1825